S. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH.

1906.

EXETER:

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To the . . .

Chairman and Members of the .

S. Thomas Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I T is my privilege to present to you my Tenth Annual Report, being that on the Health and Sanitation of your District for the year 1906.

The District covers 109,640 acres, with a population at the Census of 1901 of 25,994. This includes 1,163 inmates of the Devon County Asylum and 311 of the Starcross Idiot Asylum. These are not included in the figures used for the estimation of the Vital Statistics, and allowing that the population is still decreasing at the rate of the last decennial period, the population is taken at 24,040 at the middle of 1906.

As in previous years, I have sub-divided the whole area into five sub-districts, four being grouped about the rivers which run through the district, while Topsham is taken by itself. The divisions are very natural ones, as the geological formations practically correspond with each. The Clyst is mainly composed of the lower marls and lower sandstones of the Permian series, being separated from the Otter by the pebble beds of Woodbury Common; the Otter of the upper sandstone of the Permian series; the Exe of lower sandstone at its North and South extremities, with Permian conglomerates in the middle; the Teign of carboniferous shales, which in the North run partly into the Exe district, while at their Southern extremity the two are separated by the greensand of the Haldon Hills. The town of Topsham is on the lower sandstone, while the rural portion of the parish is on Permian breccia and conglomerates, with some valley gravels.

WEATHER.

The year's weather is remarkable in that the amount of sunshine has been greater than for many years. The rainfall has also been low, the total for the year at Exeter being 25.02 inches. This is 19 more than for 1905, but it is 4.69 less than the average for the past ten years. The wettest month was January with 5.08 inches, and July the lowest with 64. The three summer months only gave 2.46, which is unusually low. The winter was mild and open, while the summer was very hot.

I am indebted to the Librarian of the Devon and Exeter Institution for these figures.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 449. Of these 123 were in the Devon County Asylum, six in the Starcross Idiot Asylum, 5 in the Exeter Sanatorium, and 1 in Court Hall Private Asylum.

Of these 10 were in residents of this district. There have also to be included 8 deaths in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and 8 in the S. Thomas Union Workhouse. This gives a net total of 340, and a rate of 14·1 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is ·3 higher than last year and ·9 less than the average.

The number of births is 555, 275 being boys and 280 girls. This gives a rate of 23.0, which is 1 less than last year and 5 less than the average.

The number of deaths under one year is 48, giving a rate per 1,000 births of 90, which is 20 higher than last year and 12 less than the average.

The following table gives the figures for the whole and the various sub-divisions, with the corrected averages for the past nine years:—

•							
	Area.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality.		
General	109,640	24,040	23.0		90	$\cdot 54$	
Average		24,537	23.3	15.0	102	.83	.89
Clyst	33,870	7,570	24.5	15.3	75	.52	.78
Average		7,629	24.5	15.5	91	.70	.88
Exe		8,040	21.5	13.9	142	.99	1.33
Average		8,147	22.0	134	104	.77	.88
Otter	13,074	2,260	18.5	11.9	47	.00	•44
Average		2,445	23.1	17.2	107	1.04	1.06
Teign	30,396	3,400	25.2	12.0	104	.29	.58
Average		3,518	25.5	15.6	102	.99	.47
Topsham	3,379	2,770	24.5	15.5	103	.00	.70
Äverage		2,784	22.5	16.8	118	.75	1.38
Rural Englan			27.0	15.0	115	1.18	-

The birth rates call for no particular comment, except that the rate for the Otter district is very low.

The general death rate, though higher than last year, may be taken as satisfactory. The Otter rate is a great improvement on its average, as is also that for the Teign. Topsham also shows an improvement, but is too high. The Topsham birth rate is a low one, and it is possible that the population has an age distribution unfavourable to a low death rate and a high birth rate.

The infantile mortality, though higher than last year, presents a satisfactory figure. The districts, with the exception of the Exe, also have satisfactory rates, especially the Clyst and Otter. Of the 48 deaths no less than 20 were in infants under one week old. The rate for the Exe district is decidedly high.

Disease Incidents.

ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

The general death rate from Zymotic Disease is very satisfactory, in spite of its being higher than last year.

The Exe district shows the highest rate, 99, which is higher than the general average of the district. The number of deaths registered was 8. Two of these were from Scarlet Fever, one being in a girl aged 19, who was notified as Diphtheria and removed to the Sanatorium. There seemed to be some doubt on her admission as to the case being Diphtheria, and after some days she developed Scarlet Fever. She recovered apparently, but a few days previous to her intended discharge she developed brain trouble and died in a few The other case was in a boy, who developed an extremely inflamed throat and died on the sixth day, there having been no rash at all, but the practitioner in attendance was of opinion that the case was one of Scarlet Fever. There were two cases of Whooping Cough, one each at Stoke Canon and Upton Pyne. There was one case of Diphtheria in a man. He had been ill several days, and it was only when he was moribund that it was suggested that the illness was Diphtheria. There was one case of Enteric Fever also notified when moribund, but this man had Pneumonia, and was seen by a consultant, who stated that in his opinion the illness was not Enteric. There were two cases of Diarrhea at Ide.

The rate for the Clyst district is less than the average. Here there were two deaths from Enteric Fever, one at Clysthydon and one at Pinhoe. The latter was a difficult case, and was not notified until the man was moribund. He had an illness of indefinite character and duration, with some bladder complications, and his blood was tested twice for Widal's reaction, with no result. He had

lived for a few days at a cottage where some undoubted cases of Enteric had occurred. There were also two cases of Diarrhœa in Woodbury.

In the Teign there was one death from Whooping Cough at Whitstone.

In the Otter district and Topsham there were no fatalities, in the latter place for the fifth time in five years.

NOTIFIED DISEASES.

I regret to state that there has been a large increase in the number of cases of notifiable disease, namely, 147, which is 78 more than last year and 47 more than the average for the last ten years. Of this number six were in the Devon County Asylum, leaving 141 for the district proper, giving an attack rate of 5.8. Every district shows an increase, but the special incidence has been in the Clyst, owing to the outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Broadclyst, and a lesser one at Sowton. The attack rates for the various districts in order of merit are:—Topsham 1.7, Teign 3.5, Exe 4.3, Otter 5.0, and Clyst 10.0.

SMALLPOX.

The district has been free from this during the past year.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases still show an increase, the notifications being 16 in number, the largest that has yet occurred in one year. The cases were scattered all over the district and during the whole year. The largest number in one place is four at Starcross. Two of these were in one house in September, the other two being in November and December. The other cases in the Exe district (which had the greatest number, eight), were three at Stoke Canon. One was the case already referred to which was notified when moribund, one a very mild case of a girl aged five in April, and the last a case in a man in September. The remaining case in the Exe district was the girl who was removed to the Sanatorium and there died from Scarlet Fever.

The cases in the Clyst district were five, two being at Pinhoe, both in adults, and the other at Poltimore; here no bacilli were found in the throat. The last two being at Woodbury; here also there were no bacilli present in one case.

In the Teign there were two cases, one at Christow (an adult), a very mild case, and the other at Tedburn in a child.

Topsham had one case, quite mild, but bacilli were present.

In cases of Diphtheria that occur in persons that come under the Poor Law the Guardians have agreed to supply antitoxin, but the question cropped up in the year as to the treatment of those cases who are just above it and where the practitioner in attendance is

unlikely to be recouped for the expense of the treatment. In such cases the Council will pay the cost of the antitoxin which is used where the patient is for any reason unable to be removed to the Sanatorium. It happened in one case that the child was far too ill to be removed to the Sanatorium, and there were several children in the house. Antitoxin was supplied, with the result that the child recovered, which at first seemed hardly possible and also there was no spread in the house. It is recognised that the most efficient way of preventing the spread of infection in diphtheria is a prophylactic injection of antitoxin, as the system is rendered better able to dispose of the bacilli, and in cases of definite illness they disappear much more quickly and the patient is sooner free from infection.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 13 cases reported, being one less than last year. There were five at Otterton, coming close together in March, April and May, three at Broadclyst, and one each at Poltimore, Stoke Canon, Dunsford, Starcross, and Devon County Asylum.

SCARLET FEVER.

It is principally owing to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever during the past year that the number of notifications has so much increased. As in every year when this has been prevalent, the special incidence has fallen on the Clyst district. In this year the cases there have been nearly double those occurring in the remainder of the district.

The outbreak at Broadclyst has been the largest and most persistent of any that have occurred within the last ten years. During the year there were 33 cases: A special report was made to the Local Government Board on the outbreak. The first case was on the 11th March, some way apart from the village. Another in May, coming from the Hamlet of Dog, where many cases occurred later. The child was removed to the Sanatorium, being discharged on 7th July. As the outbreak proper did not begin until two months later it cannot be held to have had any connection with this case. There was another case in an isolated cottage on 13th June, which was discharged from the Sanatorium on August 4th.

The outbreak proper began on 4th September and lasted until the end of the year. The cases were in 16 houses, and occurred as follows:—

Week	ending	10tlı	September	• • •		4 ca	ses.
	,,	17th	,,	• • •	• • •	4	, ,
	,,	24th	,,	• • •	• • •	2	, ,
	,,	1st	October	• • •	• • •	_	,,
	,,	8th	, ,	• • •	• • •		,,
	,,	15th	,,	• • •	• • •	2	"
	,,	22nd	3.3	• • •	• • •	1	"
	,,	2 9th	,,	• • •	• • •	1	,,
	• •	5th	November			2	5 9

the remainder occurring on 15th and 24th November, 1st, 28th and

31st December.

The number of secondary cases was unusual and difficult to account for. In one house, the first one affected, there were six children and five contracted the fever, the youngest also having a suspicious illness, and the father himself contracting Erysipelas. The cases occurred as follows:—One on 4th September (removed), one on 11th September (removed), two on 28th September (removed), and the last on 2nd October. The father, previous to his Erysipelas, had a long continued sore throat, and it is possible that this, although not giving rise to a definite attack of Scarlet Fever, may have been infectious and he may have acted as a carrier case. The rooms and clothing were disinfected after each case. There were four cases in another cottage; the first being on 16th September (removed), the next in two adults on 30th September (removed), and the last in an infant on 7th October. In another house a case occurred on 20th September (removed), followed by another on 7th October. these two latter cottages were extremely dirty and very difficult to thoroughly disinfect. Two cases followed one another on 28th September (both removed), followed by another on 10th October. This latter did not desquamate. Two adults were attacked in one house, one on 22nd September, the second following on 9th October. They were not removed, and the latter case was in attendance upon the other. One of the early cases was on 10th September, removed and discharged on 3rd November, and another case occurred there on 1st November. If this latter had been a few days later it would certainly have been called a return case, There has been a third case in this house this year (1907). In the other houses where there were more than one case they occurred together.

At the beginning of the outbreak I attended the School on two different occasions and examined the scholars, but could find none who were suspicuous or shewed any signs of desquamation. On September 21st a child was affected, and attended School apparently with the rash upon her. I thereon advised closure for three weeks, which was later extended. This had little effect in checking the outbreak, as seen by there being six cases in the following week.

The outbreak at Sowton and St. Mary Clyst was of a slighter nature, there being twelve cases in all, eight being at Sowton and three at St. Mary Clyst. The first case was on 17th May, in a man, followed on the 25th by a case in a boy. There were two children attacked in another house on 1st June, followed by a third on the 12th. These early cases seem to have had some connection with a woman who had an indefinite illness, with sore throat. She had mixed with all those attacked, but when I heard of it eight weeks had elapsed, and there was no sign of desquamation. A fourth house was attacked on 25th June, and others occurred on 7th, 14th, 19th, and 22nd July, when I was on my holiday. My deputy advised school closure for three weeks, which was done. On 24th July there was another, the two last cases being on 19th August. One of these

was in the house where the three cases had occurred, the other being in the adjoining house. One of the first children had a discharge from the nose, which had come on shortly after her discharge from the Sanatorium four weeks ago.

The remaining cases in the Clyst district are not important, there being three cases in one house at Aylesbeare, two at Farringdon (one a very doubtful one), two at Honiton Clyst, and one each at Woodbury and Clyst St. Lawrence.

The cases in the Exe district were ten in number, and scattered both in time and place. There were three at Kenton (two in one house), one at Brampford Speke, five at Upton Pyne (four being in one house). There was delay in advice being called to these cases, it being only after a child had been ill some days that it was notified. The father contracted the disease, and, not knowing from what he was suffering, he was walking to see his doctor, when he met him on the road and was promptly sent home. The last of the cases was at Ide.

The Teign has the next largest number of cases, namely, nine. One was at Christow, and the remaining eight being at Bridford in one house. The infection was apparently brought home by a girl who had been in service at Manaton. She had left there, staying two nights at Doccombe. When the other children were infected, she was found to be desquamating. She stated that some ten days before she came home she had an illness with a bad sore throat, but had no rash. Dr. Mapleton, the Medical Officer of Health for the Newton Rural District, kindly made enquiries at Manaton, but was informed that her employers had not known that she was in any way ill, and that she had left in the ordinary way at the end of a month's notice.

The six cases in the Otter district were all at East Budleigh, in two houses. In one a child was attacked, and her mother, who nursed her, contracted the disease from her; the four others were in one house, and, although the first cases were removed, it was found very difficult to disinfect properly, and the other two cases arose in consequence.

The three cases at Topsham were in different houses, one in May and the other two in August.

The cases at East Budleigh probably had some connection with an outbreak which was then present at Budleigh Salterton. In the summer and autumn Scarlet Fever was epidemic at Exmouth, and it is to be considered fortunate that it did not spread into this district.

ENTERIC FEVER.

I regret to state that there has been a considerable rise in the number of cases of Enteric Fever, as it is a disease so entirely depending on bad sanitation and its occurrence in numbers is equivalent to a proof that insanitary conditions are present.

This especially applies to Ide. The sanitary condition of this village was adversely commented upon in my report for 1897, and the same state of things exists to-day. I ventured to predict that sooner or later there would be an outbreak of Enteric Fever, and, unfortunately, it has proved correct. The beginning of the outbreak was noted in my last annual report, and apparently it is not yet at an end, as a case has occurred in this month (Jan. 1907). In 1905 there were four cases, and this year there have been fourteen. There were two cases in January, one in April, three in May, three in June, one in July, two in August, one in October, and one in December. was no community of water supply or milk supply, and the character of the epidemic was not of this nature. All the cases except one have been on one side of the village, and that the most insanitary side. Last year I stated that a scheme was under discussion, and the same still applies. However it has got to the stage of asking for the consent of the Local Government Board to carry out the plan, which is thoroughly efficient. The great difficulty lies in the disposal works, and, unfortunately, it seems that there will be opposition to both of the only two possible solutions. A scheme of water supply is also to be included, and it is to be hoped that in my next report I shall be able to state that this long-standing grievance is at end.

The only other case in the Exe district was that at Upton Pyne, which proved fatal, and has already been commented upon.

There were eight cases at Pinhoe out of the ten occurring in the Clyst district. Two of these were in one terrace in the village, where everything seemed in order, and the origin of these is difficult to trace. The remaining cases arose in connection with a group of cottages outside the village, and where there had been some fever cases in 1901. At that time a chemical analysis of the water was made and it seemed satisfactory. On the occurrence of these cases I made a bacteriological examination of the water and found it to be unmistakably bad. The first case was a child aged three, in April, and being the only child was allowed to remain at home. In June two children were attacked in another cottage of the block, which had a separate drainage and water supply. The drains (separate) were found defective and made good. Then, in November, the two parents of the child who was first attacked contracted the disease, and were both removed to the Sanatorium. At the same time the fatal case which has already been referred to happened, he at the time being at his own house in the village.

The other cases were one at Honiton Clyst, where the man developed the disease a few days after coming into the district, and so does not belong to us, and a case at Clysthydon, which proved fatal. This occurred in a cottage where there had been cases in 1901 and 1903. The premises were sanitary, and the well had been previously put in order, analysed, and found good.

The Otter district had two cases, both at Otterton, in one house. The first of the two cases had come from Plymouth a week before the illness commenced, and the infection must have been contracted there. The case was not removed to the Sanatorium, and another child contracted the fever shortly after.

The one case at Topsham was in a man who was occupied at the Devon County Asylum, and had been engaged in cleaning out drains there. As cases of fever occasionally occur there, it is more than probable that he contracted it there.

An institution like the Devon County Asylum certainly ought not to have five cases of Enteric Fever arising within it.

CONTINUED FEVER.

There were two notifications of Continued Fever, both being at Woodbury. They were very mild and of little more than a week's duration, and had no resemblance to Enteric Fever.

Mon-Motisiable Zymotic Diseases.

MEASLES.

There has been no death from Measles during the year. The last time that this occurred was in 1898. There was an outbreak at Lympstone in January, where I advised school closure for three weeks, and another at Whimple in November. Here the numbers affected were but few, and closure was thought unnecessary.

WHOOPING COUGH.

The three deaths occurred at Stoke Canon, Upton Pyne and Whitstone. The only outbreak that came under my notice was at Upton Pyne, where I advised school closure.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA.

There were four deaths from this cause, and this is satisfactory when the hot summer is taken into consideration. There were two cases at Woodbury (in twins) and two at Ide. The disease has picked out those places where the sanitation is not what it should be.

INFLUENZA.

This was not particularly prevalent during the year, there being four deaths only. This disorder does not show anything like the case mortality that it did some years ago.

Other Specific Diseases.

PHTHISIS.

The number of deaths was 22, which is four more than last year, and one more than the average. The Exe has the highest rate, and that, with one exception, is the highest recorded for that district. The cases comprise four from Lympstone (the largest number in any one parish for the year), two at Exminster, and one each at Powderham, Kenton, Alphington, Ide, and Kenn. The latter was in an inmate of the County Asylum. The six cases in the Clyst were two at Broadclyst, and one each at Whimple, Aylesbeare, Sowton, and Woodbury. There were two cases at Topsham, one at each of Ashcombe and Christow in the Teign district, while the one case in the Otter district was at Newton Poppleford.

It is always a matter of regret to record year after year the number of fatalities that occur from this disease. Very little real progress has been made as yet in the attempt to combat it, but general improvement of the conditions under which people live must have some effect in strengthening them, so that they may withstand any attack made by the bacillus of tubercle, which takes off more than the chief zymotic diseases put together.

There has been a rise in the other forms of tuberculosis, the number of deaths being ten. There were four deaths at Topsham, one each at East Budleigh, Woodbury, Stoke Canon, and Mamhead, and two at Kenn.

CANCER.

There has been a considerable increase in the fatalities from cancer Topsham has the largest proportion, with seven deaths. The eight deaths in the Clyst are equally divided between Broadclyst and Woodbury. In the Exe, Kenton has three deaths. These four parishes have in recent years shown a higher proportionate mortality than the remainder of the district. East Budleigh had two cases, and there were single cases in each of Lympstone, Brampford Speke, Stoke Canon, Starcross, Shillingford, Exminster, Ide, Dunsford, Tedburn, Christow, and Newton Poppleford. The organs principally affected were—Stomach, 7; uterus, 5; liver, intestine and breast, 3 each; jaw and rectum, 2 each.

Until we have more knowledge as to the etiology of this scourge it is impossible to take any steps to prevent it.

OTHER DISEASES.

Reports were received from the Police that Anthrax had occurred in animals at Honiton Clyst, Rewe, Rockbeare, and Woodbury. In none of these was there any spread to human beings, but there was one case of a death from this disease in a man at Woodbury. He contracted it from hides in the tannery.

My attention was directed to a family at Woodbury who were all stated to be suffering from some throat complaint. I found the disease to be thrush.

Of the other diseases from which fatalities are tabulated there has been a fall in bronchitis and a rise in pneumonia; five deaths from alcoholism; a fall in the number of heart cases and of old age; a large rise in diseases of the nervous system and a fall in kidney diseases. There was no unusual incidence of any of these in any of the districts.

Sanitary Administration.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

SANATORIUM.

Seventy-three cases of infectious disease were removed to the Exeter Isolation Hospital, which is, excluding erysipelas, 61 per cent. of the whole. Towards the end of the epidemic at Broadclyst the Sanatorium was full, mainly, I believe, owing to the Exmouth cases, but at that time there were no pressing cases that required removal.

It is a matter for regret that in epidemics like that at Broadclyst the removal of the cases does not appear to have much effect in cutting short the outbreak. It is only possible to discuss the question on the prima facie ground that the removal of so many foci of infection must have a checking effect on the disease. A true test, which would be impossible, would be to take the same outbreak and see how many cases occurred with removal, and again, in the same outbreak, to see how many cases there were without removal. For this reason the true value of isolation in Scarlet Fever will never be known.

The large number of cases removed, although not so large as in two previous years, has led to the discussion of the question of repayment of part of the cost by the parents of the children, or the patients themselves, if adults. On the face of it, the fact that removal is necessary would show that the cases mostly come from small houses, where the tenants have correspondingly small incomes, and ability to pay is but small, or absent. Also there is no way of compelling a parent to pay anything for his children where the child is compulsorily removed.

I am glad to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the way the City Officials have assisted in the removal of our cases.

DISINFECTION.

The methods are the same as in previous years, namely, disinfection of bedding, &c., by steam, and fumigation of rooms with the vapour of Formic Aldehyde. A detailed list of the 2,594 articles is appended.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The parishes with Bye-laws remain as before, namely, Alphington, Pinhoe, Topsham, and Broadclyst. The Inspector of Nuisances is Surveyor for the new buildings.

There is no particular shortage as to housing accommodation in the district. A certain number of old cottages exist which are hard to deal with, as they are not bad enough to close as unfit for habitation, but are difficult to make entirely satisfactory.

I condemned a block of five houses and one other as unfit for habitation. These have been rendered sufficient.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The new works in this respect are recounted in the Inspector's summary. They do not include anything of great extent.

The Septic Tank Works at Exminster have been much more satisfactory in their working this year, but there is still nuisance at times. A bullock in a field below the irrigation area died, and it was stated that this was as a result of drinking the sewage effluent. I could not satisfy myself that the cattle ever drank at the place stated, or that any of the effluent had got there.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The number of complaints of nuisances arising from the old pit privies decreases every year, and, consequently, soil and water pollution in country cottages is much less than it used to be. Some of the pail closets are improperly looked after, and constant inspection is required in this respect.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

As before, scavenging is done in two places only, Topsham and Lympstone. At each place the collection is bi-weekly and appears to be satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The sources of supply in these places that have them have been inspected and found satisfactory.

The supply at Otterton, opened in 1905, has proved very satisfactory, there being an ample supply through the dry weather.

The question of improving the Starcross supply has been under discussion, there having been complaint that there is not sufficient pressure. The matter is still under discussion.

No fresh water question has arisen during the year.

The analyses which I have made during the year are appended.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none such in the district.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These on the whole are much better kept, although in some instances breaches of the bye-laws have had to be pointed out.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

As stated in previous years, there must be a large number who ought to be registered under this order and are not. A large number of those that are registered do not exactly comply with the letter of the regulations as to the cowsheds, but are mostly sufficient. Two were condemned during the year. Practically they are only milking sheds.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Act of 1901 is attended to, although the cases to which it applies are not many or important.

The points on which information is required by the Home Office are as follows:—

- 1.—Sanitary condition of Workshops and Workplaces including:
 - (a) Cleanliness, air space, and ventilation.In three cases there was want of cleanliness.
 - (b) Drainage of floors were wet processes are carried on.
 Satisfactory.
 - (c) Provision of suitable sanitary conveniences. Satisfactory.

2.—Special sanitary regulations of bakehouses.

There are no underground bakehouses. There were sanitary defects found in three others.

3.—Home Work.

Apparently there is none such as defined by the Act done in the district.

4.—Keeping a Register of Workshops.

This is properly kept, 23 have been added to the list.

NUISANCES.

The Inspectors have made 2,618 inspections. Nuisances when discovered are promptly dealt with.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No use is made of this Act.

INSPECTIONS.

In addition to the places previously mentioned in this report, I have made inspections at Ide, Exminster, Whitstone, Topsham, Stoke Canon, Woodbury, Doddiscombsleigh, Christow, Pinhoe, Upton Pyne, Sowton, Brampford Speke, Farringdon, Newton Poppleford, Otterton, Starcross, Broadclyst, Honiton Clyst, Poltimore, Whimple, Tedburn St. Mary, and Alphington.

I reported the school sanitation at Tedburn St. Mary; nine houses at Broadclyst should have new drains and be connected with the sewer; six houses at Farringdon with insufficient water supply; a small sewer at Newton Poppleford with defective outfall; ditch at Stoke Canon which receives sewage very foul; four wells insufficiently protected; five insufficient privies; nine insufficient drains; one insufficient w.c.; eight dirty houses; two foul yards; and one ash pit a nuisance.

RETROSPECT.

In view of the fact that the Housing of the Working Classes Committee of the House of Commons has reported in favour of all sanitary work being taken from the District Councils and given to the County Councils in consequence of the frequent failure of the former to properly appreciate their responsibilities, and also from the fact that a period of ten years lends itself to review, I now conclude with a short summary of what has been done and what has not been done in that time,

There are few Rural District Councils, especially in the West of England, that are so completely equipped with the proper administration to deal with outbreaks of infectious disease.

Nuisances are promptly dealt with, and the comparatively recent appointment of a second Inspector certainly tends to efficiency in this respect. Defects in existing sewers belonging to the Council are promptly made good when reported upon.

Of large works of new construction the list is exceedingly meagre. The only new water supply in ten years is that at Otterton, and probably this would not have been carried out without the financial assistance of the principal landlord. The Exeter mains have been taken to Pinhoe and Alphington, but at the latter place I have reported polluted wells, where, although the mains passed in front of the houses, the owner was not compelled to take it in. I have advocated new supplies in place of those shown to be polluted at Topsham, Lympstone, Woodbury, and Broadclyst

The new sewage and drainage works are also but few. The new system at Exminster has been laid down, in consequence of the action of the County Council discharging their sewage into an inadequate sewer belonging to this Council. Here there were already several sewers which did their work efficiently. The list is finished with Otterton, where the sewer was laid in three instalments, and charged to revenue. The necessity of proper drainage at Ide has already been insisted upon, while the conditions at Woodbury and Whimple are such that a proper scheme of sewerage is certainly required.

As regards the proposal to vest the sanitary control in the County Councils, in the first place, less than half of them have availed themselves of their powers to appoint a whole time Medical Officer of Health who should supervise on their behalf the work done by the District Councils, while, from an administrative point of view, I am of opinion that the idea is absolutely unworkable.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed),

MARK FARRANT, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P H.,

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health and of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health; Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES.

Exminster .	Total Solids.	Chlorine.	Free Ammonia.	Albumnd Ammonia.	Nitrogen as Nitrates. 2.15	Oxygen Absorbed.
Ide, top shoot	72	5.4	001	.001	1.58	Traces
,, bottom						
shoo	t. 90	5.4	.001	.003	1.85	Traces
Exminster, ne	W					
₩€	11 56	4.9	.012	·018	1.32	Traces
,, or	ıe					
month late	er 52	4.2	.002	.004	.66	Slight trace
Kenton .	42	4.8	.083	·015	•41	Excessive
	Colonies at 20° C.	Colonies at 37° C.		s Coli in	B. Enterior.	didis Sporogenes . 100 c.c.
Pinhoe .	2450	816	+	+ +	=	+
+	Means p	resent.		= Mean	s absent	•

The first well from Exminster, much polluted, now replaced by the Asylum supply; the second, a new well sunk by the Council, to replace one which was polluted. The well at Kenton was much polluted by surface water, now remedied.

LIST OF ARTICLES STERILIZED IN THE DISINFECTOR.

Blankets	•••	229	Drawers	• • •	66
Pillows	• • •	130	Blouses	• • •	100
Pillow Cases	• • •	135	Cloaks		73
Bolsters	o 0 0	70	Coats	* * *	71
Bolster Cases		70	Shawls	•••	45
Sheets	0 • •	235	Mattresses	,	95
Quilts	• • •	104	Palliasses	• • •	50
Towels	* * *	150	Trousers	. • •	59
Shirts		110	Handkerchiefs	• • •	208
Skirts	• • •	91	Pair Socks		102
Carpets		53	Caps	• • •	53
Dressing Gown	S	49			
Table Covers		89			
Aprons	• • •	157	Total	• • •	2594

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES, 1906.

No. of	Complaints	• • •		• • •	• • •	65
, ,	Inspections	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	1915
,,	Re-inspections	• • •	• • •	• * •	• • •	703
,,	Notices Served		•••	• • •	• • •	201
,,	Houses, Condem	ned as Unf	it for Habi	tation		1
,,	,, Rendere	d Fit for H	abitation	• • •	• • •	11
,,	,, or Parts	, Limewas	hed		• • •	69
,,	,, ,,	Disinfect	ed		• ^ •	91
,,	,, ,,	Demolish	ned		* * *	2
,,	Drains, New	• • •	• • •		•••	79
, ,	,, Repaire	d	• •		•••	44
,,	,, Ventila	ted		• • •	• • •	37
,,	Water Closets, 1	New		• • •	• • •	18
,,	,, ,,	Supplied wi	th Water		• • •	11
,,	Water Closets as	nd Privies	Repaired	• • •		33
,,	Earth Closets, 1	Vew	• • •	• • •	•••	8
"	Privies Converte	ed into Ear	th Closets	• • •	• • •	9
,,	Wells, New	•••	• •	• • •	• • •	6
,,	,, Protected	A.		• • •	• • •	14
,,	Houses to which	a Public S	Supply has	been La	id On	1
,,	Other Nuisance	s Abated	• • •	• • •	• • •	35
,,	Inspections of F	actories	• • •	• • •	•••	12
. ,,	,, W	orkshops		• •	•••	167
, ,	Notices under F	actory Act				6
,,	Defects Remedie	ed under F	actory Act		• • •	6
,,	Inspections of I	airies	• • •	• • •	• • •	144
,,	,, S	laughter H	ouses		• • •	50
,,	Proceedings tak	en before J	ustices	• • •	• • •	2
,,	Orders Obtained	A	• • •	• • •		2
,,	Articles Steriliz	ed	• • •	• • •	• • •	2594
,,	Rooms Disinfec	ted	* * *	+ • •	+ • •	91

New Sewers have been laid at Station Road, Topsham, and at the Red Lion and Railway Cottages, Broadclyst. The latter is the most extensive, but all three must exercise a salutary effect on the sanitation of the district.

Hodder's Court Sewer, Topsham, is in a very bad state, and with it the whole of the connections have been renewed throughout.

The water supplies have been inspected, and at Bridford and Woodbury minor improvements effected.

Ide drainage still continues unsatisfactory.

E. H. QUICK, M.S.I.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

January 24th, 1907.

S. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

	', ', ', ', ', ', ', ', ', ', ', ', ', '	Number of	
Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	12		
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	167	5	
Workplaces			
Homeworkers' Premises			
Total	179	5	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

	Numb	per of Def	ects.	Number
Particulars.	Found.	Reme-died.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	of Prose- cutions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts: Want of Cleanliness	3	3	THIS POUR TO THE P	
Total	6	6		

3.—HOME WORK.

Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the	REGISTER (S. 131)	AT THE E	ND OF 19	006:	Number.
ant vork- th as 1 o p s, enu- ere.	Bakehouses	• •	• •	• •	49
rtan of work such a sho uses,	Dressmakers		• •	• •	19
p o s.sses.	Tailors		• •	• •	10
I m classhc w c ball ma	Other Trades	• •	• •	• •	53
Total n	umber of workshop	s on Reg	ister	• •	131

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories:—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5) Notified by H.M. Inspector inspector in the Public Health Acts, but sent to H.M. Inspector.	$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101):—	
Certificates granted during the year	
In use at the end of the year	0

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1906 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

RURAL

THOMAS

Ø

UISTRICT

					- 44						,.				
Nett Deaths at	all Ages belonging to the District.	Rate.*	13		13.2	14.5	15.2	14.2	17.2	12.7	14.6	14.6	13.8	15.0	14.1
Nett D	all Ages to the	Number.	12		355	391	411	395	421	312	355	350	334	370	340
Deaths of	Residents registered	in Public Institutions beyond the District.	11		22	27	18	15	25	30	28	26	27	24	16
Deaths of	Non- Residents	in Public Institutions in the District.	10		97	58	94	86	103	124	114	105	110	100	125
Total	Deaths in Public	institu- tions in the District.	o		98	61	94	104	114	130	125	112	117	. 106	135
District.	At all Ages.	Rate.*	∞		15.9	15.7	18.1	18.0	20 3	16.6	18.1	17.6	17.3	17.5	18.6
Total Deaths Registered in the District.	At all	Number.	2		430	425	487	485	500	406	441	430	417	446	449
uths Regist	Under 1 Year of Age.	Rate per 1,000 Births	9	1	105	118	119	98	110	98	Sõ	111	70	100	06
Total Des	Under 1 Ye	ber.	٠	1	71	99	20	රිටී	64	48	48	09	40	58	48
Birtha	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Rate.*	4		24.2	20.2	21.7	22.5	23.7	22.8	23.1	22.1	23.1	23.5	23.0
	TIC	Number.	က		651	558	586	560	560	557	562	537	267	571	555
	Population estimated to	Middle of each Year.	5	1	26,890	26,940	26,900	26,910	24,520	24,410	24,300	24,200	24,100	24,537	24,040
		Year.		,	1897	1898	1899	0061	1061	1902	1903	1904	1905	Corrected Averages for years 1897—1905.	1906

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

The figures for the years 1897-1905 are given as they have appeared in previous reports, but the averages are corrected in accordance with the foundation.

Total population at all ages, 24,520; Number of inhabited houses, 5,650; Average number of persons per house, 4.3; at Census of 1901.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 109,640.

Institutions within the District receiving Sick and Infirm Persons from outside the District:—Devon County Asylum; Starcross Idiot Asylum; Exeter Sanatorium; Court Hall, Kenton; Heavitree Sanatorium.

Institutions outside the District receiving Sick and Infirm Persons from the District:—Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital; S. Thomas Union Workhouse.

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1906 AND PREVIOUS YEARS. S. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT.

		Deaths under 1 year.	p	10 10 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 1
	HAM	Deaths at all Ages.	c	46 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50
	TOPSHAM.	Births registered.	9	63 63 63 63 63 63 63 63 63 63 63
	5.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	α	2850 2850 2840 2840 2780 2780 2770 2770 2770
		Deaths under 1 year.	p	0700004070 0 0
	TEIGN.	Deaths at all Ages.	e	588 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 500 500
-		Births registered.	9	98 86 98 98 91 62 80 88 88
) + 0 +	4	Population estimated to middle of each year.	\boldsymbol{x}	3400 3400 3500 3500 3526 3500 3474 3450 3450 3450
+		Desths under 1 year.	p	-01 40 44 6 6
	OTTER.	Deaths at all Ages.	0	27 44 53 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57
1		Births registered.	9	66 54 43 51 68 68 67 67 67 67 67 67 67 67 67 67
T	ಣ	Population estimated to middle of each year.	æ	2835 2835 2820 2820 2447 2447 2447 2310 2353 2310 2280
L C C		Deaths under 1 year.	P	21 21 21 22 22 11 16 11 18 18 16 17
	EXE.	Deaths at all Ages	<u> </u>	95 129 128 115 117 98 104 109 113
	2. EX	Births registered.	9	222 160 182 182 172 188 169 169 177 177 173
		Population estimated to middle of each year.	z	9855 9855 9850 9850 8133 8110 8078 8070 8050
4		Deaths under 1 year.	q	24 17 17 18 18 18 19 10 10 14
ָם מ	CLYST.	Deaths at all Ages.	c	100 1110 1110 1112 1112 1111 95 110 110 1110
		Births registered.	q	204 198 182 177 174 180 180 191 184 186
	1	Population estimated to middle of each year.	a	7750 7800 7800 7800 7634 7620 7620 7590 7590
	NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	YEAR.		1897 1898 1899 1900 1902 1903 1904 1905 Averages of Averages of Years 1897 to 1905

TABLE III.

RURAL DISTRICT. Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1906. THOMAS (U)

PITAL	Top-sham.	H 07 H	4
TO HOS	4 Teign.		2
JASES REMOVED TO HC	3 Otter.	4	4
No. of Cases removed to Hospital	2 Exe.	11 9	22
No. 01	1 H. Clyst	2 48 70	4.1
LITY.	6 Devon County Asylum	H 70	9
TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.	5 Top- sham.	F 80 F	.5
IN EAC	4 Teign.	0 1 0	12
Notifie	3 Otter.	10 0 W	13
CASES]	2 Exe	8 10 15	35
TOTAL	1 H. Clyst.	2 4 5 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	92
	35 & up wards.	-	P
ERICT.	At Ages—Years. 1 to 5. 5 to 15. 15 to 25. 25 to 65. 65 & up wards.	12 6 6 2	37
CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.	-Years.	10	16
IN WHO	At'Ages—Years. 5 to 15. [15 to 25.	4 4 46 16	99
OTIFIED	1 to 5.	20 20	36
CASES N	Under 1.	П	4
	At all Ages.	16 33 83 83 83	147
	Notifiable Disease.	Small-pox Cholera Diphtheria Membranous croup Erysipelas Scarlet fever Typhus fever Enteric fever Relapsing fever Continued fever Plague	Totals

State the name of the Isolation Hospital, if any, used by the sick of the district. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district.—City of Exeter Sanatorium, at Pinhoe.

TABLE IV.

S. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1906.

	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.								Deaths in Localities (At all Ages.)							
Causes of Death.	All ages.		1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Clyst	Exe.	Otter.	Teign.	Tops'm.	Deaths in Public Institutions-			
Small-pox Measles Scarlet fever Whooping- cough Diphtheria and membranous	3	2	1	1	1	1			$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		1		1			
$egin{array}{c} { m croup} & \dots & $	3					3		2	1				4			
Epidemic influenza	4		1			$egin{pmatrix} 2 & & & \ & & 2 & & \ & & & & \ & & & &$	1		3		1		3			
Cholera Plague Diarrhœa Enteritis Puerperal fever	4	• 4						2	2	:						
Erysipelas Other septic diseases Phthisis	4 22			1	1 6	1 15	1 1	2 6	2 11	1	2	2	1 19			
Other tubercu- lar diseases	10	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	4	3			
Cancer, malignant disease Bronchitis Pneumonia Pleurisy Other diseases	34 31 22 1	7 3	2 4			21 1 8 1	13 21 7	8 10 8 1	10 11 7	3 2 2	6 4 4	7 4 1	4 3 6			
of Respiratory organs	3					2	1	2	1				2			
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver	5					5		2	3							
Veneral diseases Premature birth Diseases and	3	9						5	2		1	1	1			
accidents of parturition Heart diseases Accidents Suicides Old Age	44 9 8	1		2	1	11 4 8	31 3 28	1 20 3 3 10	10 5 4 11	2	1 5	7 1 1 3	35 3 7			
Diseases of nervous system Kidney disease All other causes	45	5	2	2 1	5 1	12	26 13	15 1 14	9 4 8	7 1 4	4 1 11	10	36 4 2			
All causes	340	48	12	7	17	107	149	116	112	27	42	43	135			

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

MARK FARRANT, Medical Officer of Health 18th January, 1906.

TABLE V. ST. THOMAS RURAL DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906. Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

															_			
Cause of Death.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total Under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes.	(Certified Uncertified	20 1				20 1	2	2	2	5	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	45 3
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox Chicken-pox Measles Scarlet Fever Diphtheria : Croup Whooping Cough													1			1	2
Diarrhœal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms Enteritis (not Tuberculous) Gastritis Gastro- intestinal Catarrh								1	2					1			4
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth Congenital Defects Injury at Birth Want of Breast-milk Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	8 1 1 6				8 1 1	1		1	1	1							9 1 1 10
Tuber- culous - Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica Other Tuberculous Diseases											1	1					1
	Erysipelas Syphilis Rickets Meningitis (not Tuberculous) Convulsions Bronchitis	5				5		2		2		1	2					5 7
	Laryngitis Pneumonia Suffocation, over- laying Other Causes										1		1	2	1	1		3 1 3
		21				21	2	2	$\frac{}{2}$	<u> </u>	$\frac{-}{2}$	$\frac{}{2}$	4	3	$\frac{}{2}$	$\frac{}{2}$	1	48

Population—Estimated to middle of 1906 .. 24,040

legitimate 537

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants 43

Deaths from all causes at all ages .. 340